

Grant-Kohrs project update

DEQ expects to begin a new cleanup phase on the Clark Fork River in spring 2018.

Pending the finalization of access issues, DEQ will release the bid for cleanup of the historic Grant-Kohrs Ranch (Phases 15 and 16).

Watch for a public meeting to be announced this spring in advance of the start of construction. We encourage community members to attend to learn about this new phase of the cleanup and the overall Clark Fork cleanup timeline looking ahead.

Remediation work holds up to high water

Heavy rainfall and snowmelt in mid-June tested the strength of banks and vegetation in reconstructed areas of the Clark Fork River Superfund Site.

DEQ Project Manager Ben Quiñones drove and walked along the river banks June 15 in Phases 1, 2, 5 and 6 of The Clark Fork Operable Unit of the Milltown Reservoir/Clark Fork River Superfund Site.

“My overall impression is that the remediation is holding up well with regard to the higher river flows, and out-of-bank flows are behaving as the project was designed, with excessive flows spreading out over



Trees hold firm against floodwaters in a June 15 photo taken near the Warm Springs State Wildlife Management Area in Phase 2 of the Clark Fork Operable Unit of the Milltown Reservoir/Clark Fork River Superfund Site.

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New faces on the Clark Fork

As DEQ prepares to move ahead on a new project phase on the Clark Fork River, we would like to introduce the community to some new faces on the project.

Joel Chavez and **Autumn Coleman** are replacing Brian

Bartkowiak and Katie Garcin as the project leads. We thank Brian and Katie for their hard work on the project and wish them well in their new roles at Tetra Tech (Brian) and Weston Solutions, Inc. (Katie).

Joel has worked for DEQ

managing mine reclamation projects for over 25 years. Most recently he completed the removal of mine waste in and along Silver Bow creek, extending from Butte to the Warm Springs Pond.

Autumn Coleman supervises

the Clark Fork River team and is committed to work with citizens and organizations in the Deer Lodge Valley to ensure voices are heard and we get the most out of our collaboration to clean up the Clark Fork River. Autumn welcomes your feedback and is com-

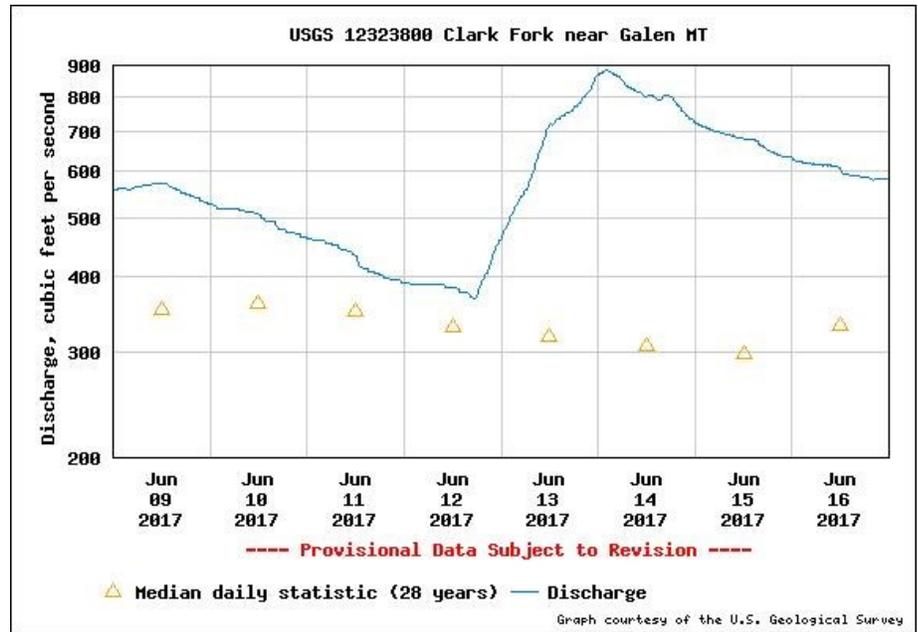
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...Remediation work holds up continued

the point bars and into higher portions of the flood plain,” Quiñones reported.

Trees and other bankside vegetation appeared solid in most areas, and there were no signs of “avulsion” – a term used by river experts to describe the process of a river carving out a new channel. Once floodwaters recede, the area will be carefully evaluated.

Floodwaters peaked at 885 cubic feet per second between 1:45 and 2:15 a.m. on June 14 at the USGS monitoring station near Galen, making this a significant flood event and the best opportunity to date to assess the structural integrity of restoration work in the Clark Fork Operable Unit.



...New faces continued

mitted to transparency with the project.

Each phase of the Clark Fork reclamation is staffed by a DEQ project manager.

Upriver on Streamside (Silver Bow Creek cleanup), we have **Tim Reilly**, a 23-year veteran of DEQ and a great construction manager.

In town, **Ben Quiñones** is working on the Grant-Kohrs Ranch Historic Site. Ben has been on the Clark Fork project since 2014. He previously worked on the Streamside Tailings Superfund project on Silver Bow Creek. Ben also is monitoring and spraying for weeds up and down the river.

Devin Clary is working on the Arrowstone Park area in concert with the City/County Park Board. Devin is a savvy construction manager and a graduate of Montana Tech in Butte.

It’s our goal to keep stakeholders well-informed at every step

of the way. On that note, we’re pleased to introduce **Karen Ogden**, our new DEQ Community Involvement Coordinator.

Karen is working to make sure community members and other stakeholders are well-informed about progress at the site, and that community questions are answered.

We look forward to meeting you in town or out in the field. In the meantime, please contact us with any comments or questions or just to say hello.

— The Clark Fork Remediation Team

In other news!

Katie Garcin who is now Katie Garcin-Forba is the new coordinator for CFRTAC and Andy Fischer from Clark Fork Coalition joined the group. Welcome Andy and Katie!



*Autumn Coleman
Project Lead*



*Joel Chavez
Project Lead*



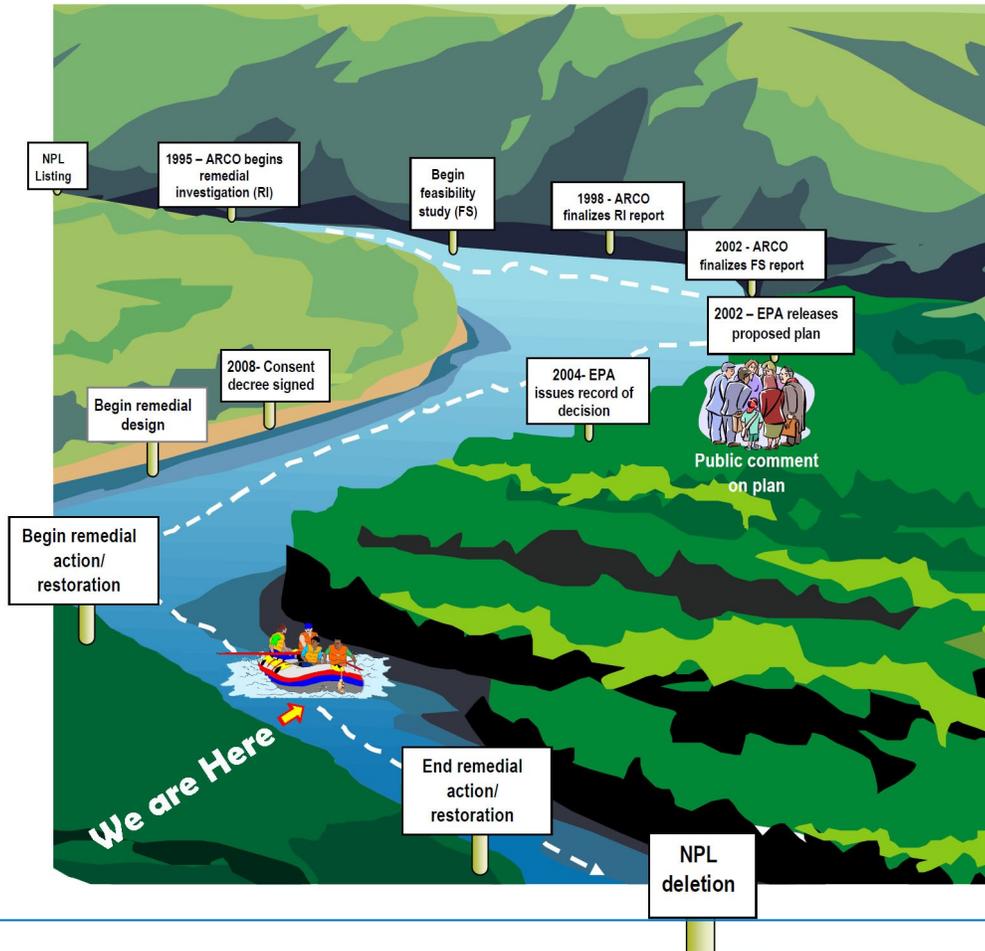
Devin Clary



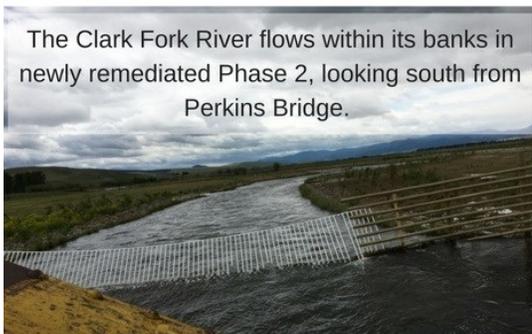
Ben Quiñones



Karen Ogden



Floodwaters flow over a point bar at the transition between Phases 5 & 6 near Racetrack, as seen from the left bank looking southeast.



The Clark Fork River flows within its banks in newly remediated Phase 2, looking south from Perkins Bridge.



Phase 2 looking upstream from the downstream end (left bank) of the ox-bow entering the Clark Fork River.



Online

<http://deq.mt.gov/Land/fedsuperfund/cfr>
www.doj.mt.gov
www.cfrtac.org

Montana DEQ Remediation Division
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901



Contact Us

Autumn Coleman
CFR Project Lead
acoleman@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-6555
Cell: 406-431-1597

Joel Chavez
CFR Project Lead
jchavez@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-6407
Cell: 406-431-2251

Ben Quiñones
CFR Project Manager
bequinones@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-6593
Cell: 406-461-7128

Katie Garcin-Forba
CFRTAC
Katherine.Garcin@WestonSolutions.com
Office: 406-502-1570

Tim Reilly
CFR Project Manager
tireilly@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-6434
Cell: 406-431-2252

Devin Clary
CFR Project Manager
djclary@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-6415
Cell: 406-422-8924

Karen Ogden
Community Involvement Coordinator
karen.ogden@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-6360
Cell: 406-461-2503

Tom Mostad
NRD Project Manager
TMostad2@mt.gov
Office: 406-444-60227